

# FIRE NEWS RELEASE

## Kaibab National Forest



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For Immediate Release – August 9, 2014

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**Hammer Fire: Bob Blasi, 928-606-7491**

**Sitgreaves Complex: Mark Thibodeau, 928-635-5602**

## Hammer Fire Nears Completion; Sitgreaves Continues Growth

**Williams, Ariz.** – Kaibab National Forest fire officials expect to see significant growth today on both the Sitgreaves and Hammer Fires. In Tusayan, Arizona, managers are preparing to finish up work on the two resource benefit fires that have been actively managed over the past month. “On the Kaibab National Forest, wildland fire is used to protect, maintain and enhance resources and be allowed to function in its natural role in the ecosystem,” said Holly Kleindienst, forest deputy fire staff officer. “Restoring the historic fire regime is one of the highest priorities for our fire managers. Recurring fire across the landscape is integral to forest health.”

**SITGREAVES COMPLEX** - 5 miles north-northwest of Parks, Arizona.

**Acres:** 6,235 (670 acres increase)

**Accomplished:** Crews conducted managed ignitions to form a containment line along the northern boundary of the planning area (FSR 141) in preparation for managed aerial ignitions just to the south.

**Objectives:** Managers are planning to continue with both aerial and ground management ignitions today. Weather and fuels conditions are still allowing for significant spread of ground fire and firefighters will continue to patrol and maintain established containment lines. Air ventilation is expected to be good today while lessening smoke impact to rural areas.

**HAMMER FIRE** - 10 miles southeast of Tusayan, Arizona.

**Acres:** 7,377 (1,483 acres increase).

**Accomplished:** Most of the fire activity was at the north end of the planning area along the east side of Forest Road 301.

**Objectives:** Fire officials will begin planning for the final management ignitions today as fuel treatments along with resource benefit management actions have been successfully accomplished. Managers expect to see significant growth today as work within the defined planning areas near final completion. Smoke may be visible and may minimally impact rural areas as winds remain variable. The public is asked to avoid driving near the fire operations to ensure safety for crews and citizens.

Additional information, photos and maps are available at the following locations:

**Inciweb:** <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>

**Text message:** text ‘follow kaibabnf’ to 40404

**Kaibab Fire Information Line:** (928) 635-8311

**Flickr:** [www.flickr.com/kaibabnationalforest](http://www.flickr.com/kaibabnationalforest)